

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 3, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated October 18, 2007, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 15 and 17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3-5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 18-24 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication by the Examiner that claims 15 and 17 are allowed.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely clarifies the claimed features of the invention; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-7, 20 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application Number 2004/0232813 to Nakano

et al. (Nakano); claims 16 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Nakano in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,255,778 to Yoshikawa et al. (Yoshikawa); claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Nakano in view of U.S. Published Patent Application Number 2003/0085649 to Wachi et al. (Wachi); and claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Nakano in view of Wachi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,417,619 to Yasunori et al. (Yasunori).

The cancellation of rejected claims 3-5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 18-24 renders their rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, allowance of Claims 3-5, 7, 9-20, 23 and 24, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event that the filing of this paper is not deemed timely, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any petition fee for the extension of time and any other fees that may be required in relation to this paper can be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Docket No. 107156.00216.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)

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